GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS
LOK SABHA

STARRED QUESTION NO:80
ANSWERED ON:26.07.2001
ENERGY EFFICIENCY OF CNG
KAMAL NATH

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the energy efficiency of Compressed Natural Gas (CNG) is lower than that of diesel and in the long run CNG will turn out to be costlier auto fuel;

(b) if so, whether the fall in the output of natural gas from ONGC wells poses a major constraint in converting the entire transport fleet in Delhi from diesel to CNG mode;

(c) whether there are also serious limitations in supplying CNG along highways and in places where the pipeline network does not exist;

(d) whether the Government propose to decide about providing alternative fuel for transport system in Delhi as the deadline fixed by the Hon`ble Supreme Court is fast approaching; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

Minister of Petroleum & Natural Gas (Shri Ram Naik)

(a) The studies conducted by R&D centre of Indian oil Corporation Ltd. (IOCL) indicate that energy efficiency of CNG is lower as compared to diesel. As regards CNG becoming a costlier option in long run, it will depend upon various factors like availability, handling and infrastructure cost, duties/subsidies, cost of conventional fuels etc. in free market scenario.

(b) The fall in the output of natural gas from ONGC wells will effect the allocation of natural gas to IGL for the purpose of CNG supply to the city of Delhi.

(c) It is technically possible to supply CNG along the highways through light commercial vehicle (LCV) fitted with cascade. However, this is not very convenient and the cost of providing CNG through cascades is higher than that of CNG supplied through on line stations.

(d) & (e) Government have already started supplying diesel with 0.05% sulphur content to the NCR of Delhi w.e.f 01.07.2001. Submission has also been made before the Hon`ble Supreme Court that diesel with 0.05% sulphur content may be considered`clean fuel`.